

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

FACT SHEET
FOR
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
GEORGIA-PACIFIC CORPORATION
FORT BRAGG LUMBER MILL

Georgia-Pacific Corporation operates log storage decks, a sawmill, a planing mill, and a wood-waste-fueled, steam-electric power plant in Fort Bragg, California. The facility produces 100,000 gallons/day boiler wet scrubber water, 30,000 gallons/day water plant filter backwash, 7,200 gallons/day boiler blowdown, 7,200 gallons/day turbine condenser cooling tower blowdown, and varying amounts of storm water associated with industrial activity. Process waste-waters and some storm water runoff flow through a series of treatment ponds, over a mill pond weir, and across a short beach to the Pacific Ocean at 39°26'28" North, 123°48'46" West (discharge No. 001). Public access to discharge No. 001 is prevented by permittee ownership of adjacent rocky headlands.

Wave action and the discharge velocity across the beach provide an estimated initial dilution ratio of 2:1. This dilution ratio is achieved through two mechanisms. The first is the summed velocity of the approaching wave and the velocity of the discharge stream downgradient across the beach. This produces an estimated 1:1 dilution ratio. The less dense lens of fresh discharge water is then trapped against the beach by cresting waves of denser salt water. This causes the lens to flow along the beach parallel to the wave and perpendicular to the initial flow direction. This lower velocity mixing is estimated to have half the dilution potential, but since there are two directions of perpendicular flow, the total dilution contribution is estimated to be equal. The combined velocity differences produce two-dimensional dilution.

The preliminary permit will replace an expiring NPDES permit, but not the statewide general storm water permit for sixteen storm water discharge points (discharge Nos. 002 through 017). Preliminary permit conditions were initially prepared for expired permits on the basis of best professional judgment, and some have subsequently been modified as required by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System regulations, the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan), and the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan). Ocean Plan Table B effluent limitations have been calculated on the basis of 2:1 dilution with water containing no significant amount of the constituent under consideration except where the Ocean Plan specifies dilution water concentrations.

Certain constituents contained in Table B of the Ocean Plan have been deleted from **B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS 1** (Table B) because the Regional Water Board believes that there is no reasonable potential that these constituents will cause, or contribute, to violations of water quality objectives. In the event that monitoring results or other evidence reveals that any of the deleted constituents have a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to violations of water quality objectives, the Regional Water Board may consider revising this permit to include effluent limitations for constituents of concern.

The permittee requested delay of adoption of a revised permit while completing an engineering feasibility study and cost estimate for recycling its wastewater. The permittee intends to conduct a full-scale trial of the recommended recycling system. If the trial is successful, power plant wastewater discharges may be eliminated in early 2002.

A public meeting to consider comments and objections to the proposed renewed requirements is scheduled for March 22, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Santa Rosa, California.

Interested persons should submit to the Regional Water Board office at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403, written copies of all technical reports, testimony, and other evidentiary material concerning this issue by 5:00 p.m. of March 8, 2001. This written material will be submitted to the Regional Water Board Members and all interested persons along with the full agenda materials.

Persons submitting written testimony and documentary evidence should be present at the hearing and available for cross-examination. Testimony at the above scheduled hearing should be limited to a summary of the above described written evidence and testimony, provided however, that upon a proper showing that evidence is available which was not available at the time the written testimony was submitted, the Regional Water Board may allow further submission of oral or written testimony. If this showing is not made, the Regional Water Board may refuse to accept such further oral or written testimony.

The preliminary Orders, related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office on Mondays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., and Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Appointments are recommended for file review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.

For more information, contact Albert Wellman at wella@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov or (707) 576-2665.